



RESPONSIBLE REFORM FOR THE MIDDLE CLASS DEMOCRATS.SENATE.GOV/REFORM

South Carolina: The Cost of Inaction

South Carolina Families Suffer

South Carolina insurance premiums skyrocket

- ✓ In 1997, family health insurance purchased through an employer cost \$4,645.
- ✓ In 2006, the same family health insurance cost \$10,956.
- ✓ By 2016, the same insurance is projected to cost \$25,840, a 136 percent increase over 2006, which will consume 62.2 percent of projected South Carolina median family income.

More uninsured South Carolinians

- ✓ Every day, 340 South Carolinians lose their health insurance.
- ✓ During the last two years, 1,301,000 South Carolinians under age 65 went without health insurance for some time, which is 34.2 percent of the under 65 population.
- ✓ In 2007, 696,484 South Carolinians under age 65 were uninsured for the entire year, which is 18.5 percent of the under 65 population.

South Carolinians pay higher premiums due to the uninsured

- ✓ South Carolina families pay a “hidden tax” of \$600 on their health insurance premiums due to the unpaid costs of care for the uninsured.

Fewer choices due to consolidated market

- ✓ The two largest health insurance companies in South Carolina have a combined market share of 75 percent.

South Carolina Businesses Suffer

Fewer South Carolinians have health coverage at work

- ✓ In 2002, 64.3 percent of South Carolinians under age 65 had employer-sponsored health insurance.
- ✓ In 2007, 58.8 percent of South Carolinians had coverage through their employer.

Fewer South Carolina small businesses offer health coverage

- ✓ In 2000, 39.7 percent of small businesses were able to offer health insurance coverage to their employees.
- ✓ In 2006, 32.7 percent of small businesses offered health benefits.

South Carolina Economy Suffers

Health care spending climbs

- ✓ In 2004, South Carolina spent \$21.4 billion on health care.
- ✓ This spending level represents \$5,114 per capita, and is 15.7 percent of the Gross State Product.

Lost economic output of the uninsured due to shorter lives and poorer health

- ✓ This year, the South Carolina economy will lose \$1.8 billion - \$3.6 billion due to the shorter lives and poorer health of the uninsured.